

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

16 (Currently Amended): A stamper for embossing a servo pattern in a surface of a layer of a hydrophilic sol-gel formed on a surface of a substrate for a magnetic recording medium, comprising:

- (a) a main body having an embossing surface including a negative image of said servo pattern, wherein said main body is formed of a first metal; and
- (b) means for facilitating release of said embossing surface of said stamper from said surface of said layer of sol-gel subsequent to embossing of said servo pattern, wherein said embossing surface is a patterned surface layer of the stamper which directly contacts the surface of the sol-gel, and said embossing surface is formed of platinum, carbon, or a hydrophobic polymer.

17 (Canceled)

18 (Previously Presented): The stamper as in claim 16, wherein said hydrophobic polymer comprises an amorphous thermoplastic material.

19 (Canceled)

20 (Previously Presented): The stamper as in claim 16, wherein said first metal is nickel and said hydrophobic polymer is a sputtered hydrophobic polymer.

21 (Previously Presented): The stamper as in claim 16, wherein said embossing surface is formed of a polycarbonate, a polyetherimide, a polypropylene, or a polyethylene.

22 (Previously Presented): The stamper as in claim 21, wherein said embossing surface is formed of a polyetherimide.

23 (Currently Amended): A stamper for embossing a servo pattern in a surface of a layer of a hydrophilic sol-gel formed on a surface of a substrate for a magnetic recording medium, comprising:

a main body having an embossing surface including a negative image of said servo pattern, wherein said embossing surface is a patterned surface layer of the stamper which directly contacts the surface of the sol-gel, and said embossing surface is formed of platinum, carbon, a polycarbonate, a polyetherimide, a polypropylene, or a polyethylene.

24 (Previously Presented): The stamper as in claim 23, wherein said main body is formed of a hydrophobic polymeric material.

25 (New): The stamper as in claim 16, wherein said embossing surface is formed of platinum or carbon.